

Dr. Ambedkar As The Member of Executive Governor General Council Questions and Answers

PART VIII

From 14th September 1942 to 12th April 1946

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Primary Schools for Railway Coal Miners' Children

1471. **Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan** : Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state :

(a) whether there are any primary schools for children of the miners working in the Railway-owned coal mines; and, if so, the number of schools and pupils—boys and girls—attending each of them;

(b) whether the number of schools and pupils has increased or decreased since June, 1939, and what the difference now is;

(c) whether these schools are co-educational, and if there are women teachers on their staff;

(d) if a midday meal is provided to the pupils at these schools; and, if not, why not;

(e) whether these schools are under entire or partial management of the Coal Mine Authorities or under some other total authorities; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to promote elementary education among miners ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (a) Yes. I regret I have no detailed information about the number of schools but I shall obtain it. As regards the number of children of miners attending the schools, it will not be easy to obtain the information as the schools are open to other children as well.

(b), (c) and (d). I have no information but I shall obtain it and place it on the table of the House.

(e) The schools are under the management of the Hazaribagh Mines Board to which the Railway Collieries make financial contribution.

(f) The responsibility for educational facilities is primarily that of the Provincial Governments.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan : Sir, the Honourable Member told us the other day that there is a welfare committee, may I ask if the Honourable Member will draw their attention to the suggestions that I have made in this question and also get a record of the children of the miners who attend the schools ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : There is nothing to prohibit the Welfare Committee from interesting themselves in this and taking action in the matter.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan : I want to know, Sir, if the

Government will give instructions to this Committee to give their attention to these matters ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : Yes, it might do. There is nothing to prevent the Committee from doing it.

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Application of Essential Services Ordinance to Government Employees

1485. Mr. N. M. Joshi : Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state :

(a) whether Essential Services Ordinance applies to all Government employees; and

(b) whether protests have reached the Government regarding nonapplication of the provisions of sections (5) and (6) of the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance II of 1941, in regard to obligation of the Crown not to discontinue the services of the Crown servants without a reasonable cause, and the issue of rules regulating or empowering a specified authority to regulate their wages and other conditions of service ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (a) Yes. (b) No.

Mr. N. M. **Joshi** : May I ask why Government have not taken steps that are necessary to be taken under the Essential Services Act ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : My Honourable friend's question was whether protests were received.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : Item 3 in the

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) : I am sorry I was not here to listen to the points raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar. But I should like to tell him that these quarters are permanent.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : All of them ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : Yes, and the necessity that **forced us to** undertake this construction.....

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I know that. I know my Honourable friend can give a lecture on that.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think it is a great advantage that in the midst of so much money which is being spent on building temporary structures, we have succeeded in securing at least these quarters as permanent houses which will enable us to house a large number of clerics' population which will be working in the Secretariat.

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Erection of Wall Round a Mosque in Karol Bagh, Delhi

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state :

(a) whether he is aware that under the Delhi Muslim Wakfs Act (XIII of 1943), there has been established a Sunni Majlis-e-Awkaf; if so, whether the said Sunni Majlis-e-Awkaf is the sole Administrator of all the Wakfs in the Province of Delhi;

(b) whether he is aware of the existence of an old mosque and a grave yard attached to it in the Karol Bagh area in New Delhi near the recently constructed Government quarters and that the Muslims do offer their prayers therein;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Central Public Works Department intends to enclose the said mosque by erecting a wall around it and thereby stopping ingress of Muslims in it for offering their prayers;

(d) whether his Department has sought the permission of the Sunni Majlis-e-Awkaf to erect a wall around it;

(e) whether it is a fact that on the objections of the Mussalmans offering their prayers in the said mosque the contractor and men of the said Central Public Works Department is of the Central Public Works Department now ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes. (b) I am not aware of the existence of any old mosque although evidence of an old and unused graveyard is visible near the recently constructed Government quarters in Karol Bagh. But I am aware of the fact that some Muslim residents of this area have recently built a pucca platform with a thatched roof and an enclosure on this area and say their prayers in this structure.

(c) In consultation with the Total Administration, Government have proposed to wall off this area in order to prevent encroachment on this Government land by either the Muslims or the Hindus. In deference to the representations received from representatives of the Muslim community this proposal has been now held in abeyance pending clarification of the legal issues involved.

(d) In view of my reply to question (b) this question does not arise. (e) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to question (c). (f) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to question (c).

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: When the Honourable Member says that the Government has decided to built a wall to stop people going on this Government land, may I ask how does it become Government land ? When it is a grave yard, how does the Honourable Member say that it is Government land ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : As at present advised the Government regard this to be Government land; but I am obtaining legal opinion on it.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan : Does the Honourable Member call all the English cemeteries and the Hindu Cremation ground as belonging to the Government ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : As I said, I am asking for legal

opinion.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan : But the Honourable Member has himself said that there is a grave-yard and at the same time he calls it as Government land ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : That is the position as Government is advised at present.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan : By whom ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already said that he was taking legal opinion.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan : By whom is he advised ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : By those who are entitled to advise Government.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani : May I know whether Government has made an acquisition of that portion of the land to which the Honourable Member refers as a grave-yard and mosque.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is unnecessary to acquire.

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Public Utility Concerns held by Non-Indian Interests

1591. **Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar :** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state :

(a) the number of public utility concerns held by British and other non-Indian interests in India; and

(b) whether any attempts were made to acquire these public utility concerns ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). The information asked for is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

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Audit of Accounts of Government of India Presses

1596. **Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde :** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state :

(a) whether the accounts of the Government of India Presses are annually audited by the Accountant General, Central Revenue, New Delhi;

(b) whether copies of the audit reports are sent to his Department for perusal and action; and whether such copies were received in the last two years; if so, the action taken thereon.

(c) whether it is a fact that serious discrepancies in the accounts of paper were found in the last two reports and no action was taken on them; if so, what the reasons are; and

(d) whether Government propose to place a copy of each of the audit reports for the last two years of the New Delhi Press on the table of the House ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (a) The accounts of the Presses are audited by the Accountant General, Central Revenue and other Accountants General who act on his behalf.

(b) Reports are submitted by audit to Heads of Departments. Reference is made to Government of India only on points of importance or matters on which settlement cannot be reached.

(c) The 1942-43 report revealed certain discrepancies which were mostly due to wrong entries in registers. The matter is still under examination. The 1943-44 report has recently been received and is under examination by the Controller of Printing and Stationery, India.

(d) No. Important points are included in the Appropriation Accounts of the Year by the Accountant General, Central Revenues. These accounts are examined by the Public Accounts Committee and their report is laid before the Legislative Assembly.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde : May I know with reference to part (d) of the question whether the Honourable Member will please lay the audit reports on the table of the House ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : No, Sir, It is not necessary. These are included in the Public Accounts Committee reports.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde : May I know whether these audit reports are incorporated in full in the Public Accounts Committee reports ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : Such parts of it as are necessary for the purposes of the Public Accounts Committee are incorporated.

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Central Government Servants not provided with Quarters

1606. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the percentage of Central Government servants servicing in Delhi and New Delhi and having a monthly salary of below Rs. 600 who have not so far been provided with any Government accommodation ?

(b) Is it a fact that a Government servant whose monthly salary is below Rs. 600 is not deprived of his quarter when he becomes out of class until accommodation of a higher type can be provided to him ?

(c) Will Government please state the number of Government servants in Delhi and New Delhi who were in possession of Government quarters but have been deprived of them on technical ground of transfer from one Government office to another in New Delhi e.g. from Agricultural Institute, Pusa, Government of India Press, New Delhi, A.G.P. & T. etc., to the Government of India Main Secretariat Departments ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (a) About 65 per cent. (b) Yes.

(c) The required information is not readily available and its collection at this stage would not justify the labour involved, but I would inform the Honourable Member that except in the case of the staff transferred from Government of India Press, Agricultural Research Institute and A.G.P. & T's

Office, who have got their separate pool of quarters, no officer is required to vacate his quarter on transfer from one Government office to another in New Delhi.

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Plight of Central Government Servants deprived of Quarters on Transfer to another Office in New Delhi

1607. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that in a considerable number of cases where Government servants have been deprived of their quarters, the persons concerned have a total length of permanent service under the Central Government in Delhi and New Delhi for a period of fifteen years or more ?

(b) Are Government aware that under the existing conditions, some of these Government servants who had to wait in the beginning for a number of years before they got Government accommodation, will have no chance during their service-life to get Government accommodation again ?

(c) Is it a fact that distinction between orthodox and unorthodox quarters has been abolished with a view to enlarge the scope of a Government servant to get accommodation in Delhi and New Delhi ?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the cases of Government servants referred to in (a) and (b) above and grant them relief in the matter of accommodation by taking into account their length of service under the Central Government in Delhi and New Delhi. If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to reply to part (c) of starred question No. 1606.

(b) Officers mentioned in my reply to the last question may have to wait for their turn in the general pool, but for how long they may have to wait, I cannot say. (c) Yes.

(d) The length of service in the general pool is always the deciding factor. Government do not consider it equitable to alter this rule in favour of any particular groups of Government servants.

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Applications for Khas Khas Tatties from Occupants of Government Quarters in Delhi and New Delhi

131. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether he is aware that formal applications in regard to the supply of khas khas tatties in the residences occupied by Government servants in Delhi and New Delhi during the ensuing Summer Season, 1945, were invited by the 20th March, 1945, *vide* Additional Chief Engineer (Western Zone) Central Public Works Department, circular memorandum No. WII/3708, dated the 20th February, 1945 and No. WII/3708, dated the 13th March, 1945 ?

(b) Is he also aware that the Summer allotment (1945) is not yet out ?

(c) If the reply to (b) above be in the affirmative, does he propose to extend the date for applying for khas khas tatties in the case of those

Government servants who will be allotted quarters in April, 1945, but have none at present ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes. (b) As seasonal allotments have been dispensed with under the latest Rules, this question does not arise.

(c) Government servants who have no official quarters now and will be allotted official quarters in April, will be permitted to apply for khas khas tatties upto the end of April, although the supply of such tatties will be necessary somewhat delayed.

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Technical Centres opened by Labour Department

1697. **Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please mention the number of Technical Centres opened by the Labour Department (i) in association with Muslim Institutions, (ii) in association with non-Muslim Institutions, and (iii) in association with independent Institutions not connected with any Engineering Institutions ?

(b) How many of the Institutions under (iii) are under Muslim Administration, and how many under non-Muslim administration ?

(c) Does the Honourable Member propose to lay on the table of the House the names of all these Centres for Technicians mentioned in classes (i), (ii) and (iii) ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (a) (i) 5, (ii) 74, (iii) If by " independent institutions " are meant " private institutions ", there are 36.

(b) Of the 36, 2 are under purely Muslim administration. (c) A statement is laid on the table.

STATEMENT

I. Technical Training Centres associated with Muslim Institutions A. *Engineering:—*

1. Abdullah Fazalbhooy Technical Institute, St. Xavier College, Bombay.
2. Anglo-Arabic College Technical Institute, Delhi.
3. Muslim University Engineering College, Aligarh. B. *Non-Engineering:—*
4. Anjuman Industrial School, Madras.
5. Shia Intermediate College, Lucknow.

II. Technical Training Centres Association with Non-Muslim Institutions (Excluding Centres Associated with Institutions run by Provincial Governments and States and with Railway Workshops). A. *Engineering:—*

1. B. P. Chdy. Technical School, Krishnagar.
2. College of Engineering and Technotogy, Bengal.
3. D. J. Industrial School, Rajshahi.
4. Don Bosco Technical School, Krishnagar.
5. I. G. N. Co., Ltd., Sonachara Workshop, Narayanganj.
6. K. K. Technical School, Mymcnsingh.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : What is the nature of these technical

centres?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They are centres where technical training is given.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : For what industries ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : For many of the trades.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan : Is Aligarh one of them ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, certainly.

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Opening of War Technicians Depot or Reception Centre

1698. **Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad :** Is the Honourable the Labour Member contemplating to open War Technicians Depot or Reception Centre ? If so, at what places ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : The Government of India propose to have a Reception Depot in each circle where civilian recruits after being selected for training may be sent for short periods before being allotted to a training centre. A statement indicating the reception depots already sanctioned, their capacity and location is placed on the table.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad : Are there many centres ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : The Honourable Member may see the statement and find for himself. I am placing a statement on the table.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani : What is the total number of reception centres ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I cannot make a calculation here.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better look at the table.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad : It is not a big list.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is a big list. I cannot read the whole thing unless you Sir, permit me to do so. India is divided into circles Northern Circle, Central Circle, N.E. Circle, S. E. Circle, Eastern Circle, Western Circle and Southern Circle.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad : What are their headquarters ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The headquarters or centres for training are : Northern Circle, Lyilpur and Sonapat; Central Circle—Delhi, Akola or Nagpur; N. E. Circle—Aligarh; S. E. Circle—Guizarbagh (Palna) and Cuttack; Eastern Circle—Hooghly; Western Circle—Worli (Bombay) and Hubli; Soulliern Circle— Madras, Bewada, Trivandrum and Coimbatorc.

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*** Developing of U. P. Technical Training Centres into Polytechnic**

1699. **Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the technical training Centres in U. P. which Government are contemplating to develop into polytechnic ?

Is it not a fact that Government have selected two places for developing Technical training centres into Polytechnic, i.e. Dyal Bagh and Benares

University ? Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that the Aligarh Muslim University Engineering College has been omitted from the list of the Centres ?

(b) Is it not a fact that Aligarh Centre was included in the list on the special request of the Muslim League Party ? Is it not a fact that one of the Inspectors and Advisers who deal with the War Technicians' class is a Muslim ? If the answer is in the negative, what is the number of Muslim Inspectors ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) There is no scheme under consideration of the Labour Department at present for developing any training centre, either in the United Provinces or anywhere else, into a polytechnic. The question of selecting-any centre for this purpose does not therefore arise.

(b) In view of the reply given to (a) above the first part of the question under (b) does not arise. As regards the rest of part (b) none of the Regional Inspectors under the Technical Training scheme is a Muslim and there are no officers designated as " Advisers " .

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Starting of Canteens and Cafeteria in Industrial Establishments

1700. Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde : Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is encouraging starting of canteens and cafeteria in all industrial establishments by the employers where food is made available at cheap rates;

(b) how many such (i) canteens, and (ii) cafeteria are started in the country in 1944-45;

(c) whether Government have offered any such benefits to the workers in the Ordinance Factories in the country;

(d) whether the Honourable Member is aware that the workers in the Aravankada Factory have demanded such benefits from Government; and

(e) whether Government propose to offer such benefits to their workers at Aravankadu ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes. (b) No statistics of canteens as distinct from cafeteria are maintained. Information available shows that towards the close of 1944, there were 315 establishments for supplying cooked food and the rest provided refreshments. (c) Yes. (d) No.

(e) Provision already exists at the Factory for the sale of tea and other light refreshments. The question of providing meals at the Factory will be considered if the demand therefor becomes appreciable.

Shri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde : How many workers should apply for these benefits?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : Certainly, if they express a desire it will be considered ?

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde : What is the number of workers that should apply ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: So far we have not prescribed any minimum for a demand of this kind.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is it one of the task of their welfare officers to encourage employers to provide these facilities for their employees ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : We are thinking of that.

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Increasing of Dearness Allowance and Scales of Pay of Government of India Press Employees

1706. **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi :** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether Government are aware :

(i) that the Unions of the Government of India Presses have formed a Federation of their own ;

(ii) that a statement has been issued by the Executive Committee of the Government Press Unions Federation, India, narrating the woeful tale of the hardship of the Press employees with some recommendations for an increase in Dearness Allowance and the scales of pay; and

(b) If the answers to (a) are in the affirmative, has any action been taken in the matter since the issue of the statement ? If not, when does he intend to take action, and in what way ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) (i) and (ii) Yes. (b) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

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Safeguarding of Indian Interests in Mica Mines

1709. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if his attention has been drawn to an article in the Free Press Journal of the 16th March, 1945, under the title, ' India Chief Producer of Mica ' in which it is pointed out that British and American interests are trying to get control of mica mines in India ?

(b) If this is true, what precautions are Government taking to safeguard the interests of those engaged in mica industry at present, and of Indian Joint Stock Companies, who have acquired mica interests ?

(c) How many Indian Joint Stock Companies are interested in Mica mines in India ?

(d) Have any applications been received by the Controller of Capital Issues to register new companies in respect of mica, and has permission been given ? If so, to which ones ?

(e) Do Government propose to give an assurance that mica interests in the hands of Indians will not be threatened by more powerful British or American interests and that they will not be deprived of the existing rights ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (a) The article in question is not traceable in the Free Press Journal of the 16th March, 1945.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) According to the annual returns received for the period ending 31st March 1943, the number is twenty. Later information is not available.

(d) Applications have been received by the Examiner of Capital Issues, and permission has been given in some cases. It is not the practice of the Department concerned to disclose the names of the firms with which they have been dealing.

(e) Government are alive to the necessity for putting the Indian Mica industry on a sound footing and they intend to take all possible steps to safeguard the interests of the Indian mica producer.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why Government have not attempted to bring the small mica producers together into a combine under their supervision and guidance and why they are making the way open for foreign interests ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : We do not propose to take any step until we receive the report of the Committee we have appointed.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government permit the small Indian interests to be bought out by these foreign interests ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : I do not wish to prejudge the issue.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Meanwhile what is to happen to this industry ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : There is no need to fear very much on that account.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government give an assurance to the House ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : As soon as the report is received we shall take all the necessary measures.

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Bad Condition of Timarpur Quarters, Delhi

1722. Mr. **Badri Dutt Pande** : (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether Government quarters in Timarpur were built temporarily ?

(b) Is he aware that these quarters are now in worst condition, that no repairs can stand for long, and that there is always a danger of some of the quarters coming down at any time ?

(c) Is he aware that the New Delhi Government quarters are cent per cent better than those in Timarpur ?

(d) Is he further aware that even in C Type of quarters there is only one water tap, whereas in the New Delhi quarters there are three to four taps ?

(e) Is he aware that neither any Executive Engineer nor any higher official has ever gone to these quarters to see whether each one has been properly repaired or not, and that no one looks after the convenience of the tenants there ?

(a) Why do Government charge the same rate of rent from those

living in much inferior type of quarters where there are less facilities as compared to the New Delhi quarters ? Do Government propose to have the case examined and reduce the rent ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (a) Yes. (b) No, but I am aware that these quarters require frequent repairs. (c) The New Delhi quarters are much superior to the Timarpur quarters. (d) Yes.

(e) No. On the other hand my information is that the quarters are regularly inspected by responsible officials of the Department. There is an Enquiry Office at site for the tenants to register their complaints.

(f) It is not possible to lay down different rates for recovery of rent from Government servants for similar type of quarters though the facilities may be somewhat less. The standard rents of Timarpur quarters are lower compared with the standard rents of similar quarters in New Delhi and consequently a larger number of occupants of these quarters pay less than 10 per cent of their salaries. The question of reducing rents does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have any steps been taken to improve the amenities for the older quarters ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They have already got amenities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : The Honourable Member stated in his question that water taps and other conveniences do not exist. Will the amenities be improved.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : I will look into the matter.

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Difficulty re Accommodation of Simla Staff permanently Located at New Delhi

1723. Mr. **Badri Dutt Pande :** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the number of staff who have come down from Simla to be located permanently at New Delhi ?

(b) Is he aware that much inconvenience is being felt by the staff and others for locating such staff far away from the main Branches of the Departments or Offices ?

(c) Does he propose to see that each departmental unit is located in one building ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (a) The information is not readily available and its collection does not justify the time and labour involved. (b) Yes.

(c) Under the present circumstances it is not always possible to accommodate the entire staff of a particular office in one building. Attempts are however made to adhere to this principle as far as possible.

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Government Contribution to Indian Labour Federation

1800. Mr. **Badri Dutt Pande**: (a) Will the Honourable the labour Member please state whether Government has seen a book entitled "The Story of a Sordid Episode " of Rs. 13,000 grant given by his Department to Mr. M. N. Roy as Secretary, Indian Federation of Labour, published by one Ganpat Raj ?

(b) Will Government please lay a statement of accounts showing how the amount was spent ?

(c) Will Government please state whether this grant of Rs. 13,000 per month has been included in the current years budget, and, if so, under what head the figure is shown in Demands for grant ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) I have not seen the book.

(b) The attention of the Honourable member is drawn to my answer to his supplementary question to starred question No. 31 by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 2nd November 1944.

(c) Yes; it is included in Demands for Grants for 1945-46 under the head " Miscellaneous Expenditure connected with the War-C-5— Expenditure on War Publicity-C. 5 (4)—Labour propaganda ".

Mr. **Badri Dutt Pande** : The Honourable Member had said the other day that a statement of the accounts will be placed on the table of the House. When is he going to do that ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That does not arise out of this.

Mr. **Lalchand** Navalrai : If the Honourable Member has not read that book, may I tell him that there are two books, one against the other. One is by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta and the other by Mr. Roy. Will the Honourable Member send for these books and read them and he will then find that there is a contradiction between them ? Will the Honourable Member then go into this question and find out how this money has been spent-whether it has been divided half and half between them or what ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not propose to spend my money on purchasing them. If they are sent to me, I will read them.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : I am sorry I could not catch the answer to part (c) of the question. Will the Honourable Member kindly repeat it ?

The Honourable Dr. B. Ambedkar : I said that the grant is in the Demands for Grants.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar : Has the grant been enhanced or is it the same amount ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is the same amount.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : If I send these books which I have got with me, will the Honourable Member read them ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If I find time, I will.

Mr. **Badri Dutt Pande** : How did the Honourable Member say in reply to my supplementary question that the question does not arise of placing a statement of accounts on the table of the House when it is definitely stated in

the question that a statement of accounts should be so laid showing how the amount was spent ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have not been able to follow the question.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: You said just now that the question of laying a statement of the accounts on the table does not arise, but that is a definite part of the question as stated in part (b).

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am sorry. Such information as I have I will lay on the table of the House.

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Authority for Appointment of Mica Enquiry Committees

1801. Mr. **Ram** Narayan Singh : Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether, according to the 7th Schedule of the Provincial Legislative List, item 27 to the Government of India Act, 1935, Mica Industry is a provincial subject ? If so, is the formation of the present Mica Enquiry Committee by the Government of India within their powers under the Act ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : I have nothing further to add to the reply I gave to Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha's short notice question on the same subject on the 20th of November, 1944.

Mr. **Ram** Narayan Singh: May I ask whether this is an encroachment by the Government of India on the rights of the Provincial Governments ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : As I said, I have nothing to add to the answer I gave.

349

British-American Mica Mission

1802. Mr. **Ram** Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state at whose instance the present joint British American Mica Mission was instituted ?

(b) What is the respective strength of the British and American representatives on the said Mission ?

(c) What are the purposes and functions of the Mission ? (d) Is it only a war measure or is the Mission to permanently continue even after the war ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (a) The Joint Mica Mission was set up as a result of discussions between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government, and through His Majesty's Government with the Government of the United States of America.

(b) Three British and three United States of America representatives.

(c) The Mission under instructions from their principals, are responsible for purchasing, inspecting, accepting, paying for and despatching all mica required by the United Nations. (d) It is only a war measure.

Mr. **Ram** Narayan Singh : May I ask why the Government of India or the Mica industry have not been represented on the Mission ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : It is unnecessary; it is only a

purchasing Mission.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether it is a fact that the mica is sold in America for a much higher price than the price paid to the mica owners in India and if there is a profit—and a large profit—, who takes that profit ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : I must have notice of the question.

350

Candidates from Hindu Backward Classes appointed as Labour Officers, etc.

1803. Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if any labour Officer, Labour Inspector, Labour Legal Adviser and Labour Welfare Society Officer has been appointed from amongst suitable candidates belonging to the Hindu backward classes, such as Ahirs, Gadariyas, Teli, Tambolies, Kahars, Tohars, Barhais and Kumhars, who are hereditary occupational and artisan classes and who number sixteen to seventeen crores in the country ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : From information readily available, it appears that no officer from such particular classes has been appointed.

351

Facilities to Candidates from Hindu Backward Classes under Bevin and Other Technical Schemes

1804. Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to grant official facilities to the candidates of the backward classes such as Tohars, Barhais, Gadariyas, Kumhars and Kolies, who are hereditary occupational and artisan classes in the Bevin Trainees Scheme and such other technical schemes as are being formulated every now and then ? If not, why not?

The Honourable **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar** : Government have already taken special steps to help recruitment of backward classes (Scheduled Castes, etc.) in the Bevin Training Scheme. The National Service Labour Tribunals which make the selections have been directed to follow the orders in force in the different Provinces with regard to communal representation and to see that the various communities and classes are adequately represented. In addition Tribunals have been asked to associate with them a non-official of influence belonging to the Scheduled Caste and if necessary, a Muslim to guide them in determining the adequate representation of Scheduled Caste and other backward class candidates.

352

Hindu Backward Classes Representative on Provincial National Labour Service Tribunal

1805. Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if Hindu backward classes have any representative on the Provincial National Labour Service Tribunal ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : The Government of India are not aware if there are members of the Hindu Backward Classes on the National Service Labour Tribunals. Representation on the Tribunals on a communal basis is neither necessary nor practicable.

353

Summary of Proceedings of the Fifth Meeting of the Standing Labour Committee

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) : I lay on the table a copy of the Summary # of Proceedings of the fifth meeting of the Standing Labour Committee held at New Delhi on the 27th June, 1944.

354

Summary of Proceedings of the Sixth Labour Conference

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) : I lay on the table a copy of the Summary of Proceedings of the Sixth Labour Conference held at New Delhi on the 27th and 28th October, 1944.

355

Summary of Proceedings of the Sixth Meeting of the Standing Labour Committee

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) : I lay on the table a copy of the Summary of Proceedings of the sixth meeting of the Standing Labour Committee at New Delhi on the 17th March, 1945.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded District and Chitter : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : On a point of information. May I know why it has taken so long to these papers which were ready on the 27th of June, 1944 and on the 27th and 28th of October, 1944 on the table of the House ? Why were they not placed in the last Assembly Session ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : I cannot give an answer, but I will look into the matter.

356

Indian Mines (Amendment) Bill

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923.

Mr. President : The question is

" That leave be granted to introduce a Bill farther to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923. " The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. B. Ambedkar Sir, I introduce the Bill.

357

Inadequate Accommodation for Government Servant

24. Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state—

(a) the number of clerks and assistants in Government Departments who have applied for quarters but have not yet been allotted accommodation in New Delhi ;

(b) the number of superintendents who have applied for but not given any Government accommodation so far;

(c) the number of houses or flats requisitioned in New Delhi and Karol Bagh areas for the use of persons in (a) and (b) above during the war;

(d) the number of houses and flats in New Delhi and Karol Bagh which have been handed over or proposed to be handed over to their owners on and from the 1st January, 1946; and

(e) when he expects those who have applied for accommodation before the 1st January, 1945, will be allotted Government accommodation ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). Applicants for quarters are divided into two categories, viz., (i) officers drawing a pay of less than Rs. 600 and (ii) officers drawing a pay of Rs. 600 or more. All clerks and Assistants and some Superintendents come under category (i). The number of applicants under this category, who have not been allotted accommodation is 16,256. Information regarding the number of clerks and assistants or superintendents, who applied for but were not allotted quarters, is not readily available.

(c) The number of flats requisitioned in New Delhi and Karol Bagh areas for officers, drawing a pay of less than Rs. 600 is 188. (d) 3.

(e) It is not possible to furnish the information as an applicant's prospects of securing an allotment of quarter depend on many factors which cannot all be foreseen, such as the date of his posting to New Delhi, the amount of his pay, whether he is single, married or with family, his preference for a particular type of quarter, etc.

358

Surplus Government Buildings in Delhi

25. Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the labour Member please state—

(a) if any of the barracks and buildings built to the north and south of the Imperial Secretarial Buildings and in other places in New Delhi for the use of the American, British and Indian personnel have now become superfluous for such use, if so, how many, (b) the total number of rooms, etc., in the buildings in (a) above, (c) whether any offices are now located therein, if not, what is proposed to be done with them;

(d) whether it is proposed to allot such buildings now or in the near future for (i) office use, and (ii) for residential accommodation with slight alterations for kitchens and bathrooms where necessary,

(e) if the answer to (d) above is in the affirmative, whether any have been allotted so far, if so, how many, and

(f) in particular what is proposed to be done with the American barracks on the Talkatora Road, Gurdwara Road, Queensway and Connaught Place ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (a) and (b). I take it that the Honourable member is referring to temporary buildings which were till recently occupied by personnel other than that of the Government of India.

A statement containing the necessary information in respect of such buildings as have been surrendered to Government or as will, according to the information in the possession of Government be surrendered within the next three months is laid on the table.

(c) I confine my answer to this part of the question to the buildings which have actually been surrendered to Government. The answer is in the affirmative except in the case of the buildings surrendered only very recently which are also required by Government and are proposed to be used by them.

(d) I confine my answer to this part of the question to buildings which will be surrendered within the next three months. Such buildings are also required by Government and are proposed to be used for one or the other purposes.

(e) No, the latter part of the question does not arise. (f) The buildings on Talkatora Road and Gurdwara Road are being used by Government for office purposes and will continue to be used so long as these are required by Government. As regards the American buildings on Connaught place and Queensway, the method of their disposal is under consideration but they are likely to be required for Government purposes.

Statement showing the buildings surrendered or to be surrendered to Government within the next three months in New Delhi.

Name of the building	Number of rooms, etc., available therein	
L Block	74	
M Block	107	
Gurdwara Road	106	
Talkatora Barracks	14 barracks	49,000 Sq. ft.
	1 barrack	2,890 Sq.ft.
	Office rooms (18)	4,446 Sq. ft.
	Recreation Hall with 4	5,000 Sq. ft.
	adjoining rooms and	
	godown.	
	Kitchen and Dining	2,893 Sq. ft.
	hall.	
Officers quarters on the Central Vista	288 rooms	
Jodhpur Mess	120	

(To be surrendered in April 1946)		
Canning Road Barracks—' B ' Block	6 barracks (double)	62,406 Sq. ft.
(To be surrendered on 21-2-46)	1 barrack	4,598 Sq. ft.
	10 office rooms	4,566 Sq. ft.

359

Appointment of Mr. Harkness as town Planning Officer, Delhi and New Delhi

26. Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state—

(a) if it is a fact that one Mr. Harkness has been appointed as town Planning Officer for Delhi and New Delhi recently, (b) the terms on which his recruitment has been made, (c) if the post was advertised in India and applications called for from qualified or capable Indians for the post, and, if so, whether any applications were received,

(d) if the appointment was made through the Federal Public Service Commission, and, if not, why not,

(e) if he has satisfied himself that no Indian of the necessary ability was available before Mr. Harkness was given the job, and (f) whether Mr. Harkness has had previous experience of town planning in a country like India or whether his experience has been confined to Europe and other countries ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes. (b) The post has been sanctioned for a period of 3 years and is nonpensionable. It carries a pay of Rs. 2,000 per mensem.

(c) The answer to both parts of the question is in the affirmative. (d) The post was first advertised by the Federal Public Service

Commission but no suitable candidate was available in India. (e) Yes. (f) Mr. Harkness's experience has been confined to Europe and countries other than India.

360

Handmade paper for Members of Legislative Assembly

31. Seth Govind Das : Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether he proposes to procure for future use of and sale to the Members of this House, handmade paper only which is manufactured as a village industry by institutions organised on cooperative basis ?

The Honourable **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar** : If all the Members of the House agree to accept and use handmade paper of the kind referred to by the Honourable Member, such paper will be procured for sale to them whenever it is available in acceptable qualities.

Wells and Additional Accommodation for Members of Legislature

33. **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of bungalows for the residence of members of both the Houses of the Central Legislature ? If so, what steps Government are taking to construct sufficient number of additional bungalows so as to provide residence for all the members ?

(b) Are Government aware that the absence of wells in these totalities cause great hardship to such orthodox members of the families of M. L. As. who have objection to the use of tap water ?

(c) Do Government propose to take steps to construct wells, at suitable distances and places in these totalities, before the members take up their residences for the next session ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Until the beginning of this Session no shortage was reported to Government and no complaint of shortages was received by them. A small shortage of bungalow type accommodation has just been brought to the notice of Government and the matter is now under their consideration. (b) No.

(c) Government have not at present any such proposal under consideration.

Re-Constitution of Geological Survey of India

36. Mr. K. C. Neogy : Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state what action has been, or is proposed to be, taken in the matter of (i) reconstitution of the Geological Survey of India in order to make it " a potent instrument for the furtherance of Government's mineral policy ", and

(ii) undertaking legislation for the purpose of establishing control over minerals in terms of his statement in the Legislative Assembly on the 12th March, 1945, while defining Government's policy regarding mineral resources of India ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (i) A very large expansion of the Geological Survey has been undertaken by the Central Government. The superior gazetted staff of the Survey has been increased from its pre-war strength of 27 to 102 which includes specialists, like Geophysicist, Mining Engineer.

A copy of the brochure showing the Functions and Organisation of the Geological Survey of India is available in the Library of the House.

(ii) Provincial Governments were consulted in the matter and their replies are under consideration.

Abolition of Utilisation Branch of Geological Survey of India

37. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to slate the circumstances that led to the abolition of the Utilisation

Branch of the Geological Survey of India ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Advisory Committee attached to the said Branch was at one stage, expected to function as a post-war planning committee with reference to minerals ?

(c) Which Committee, if any, is now engaged in considering questions relating to post-war policy about minerals.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The Utilisation Branch was established with a view to utilizing undeveloped mineral resources of the country for furtherance of the war effort. On the termination of the war, the emphasis changed from that of war-time production to that of a planned policy of minerals development in the country. The development of such planned policy is an integral function of the Geological Survey of India and is being pushed forward but the necessity for a separate branch for productive purposes no longer exists.

(b) Yes, but the change-over in function has necessitated a change in the personnel of the Advisory Committee.

(c) The Government of India have recently formed an expert Advisory Board to advise them on problems connected with the mineral development of the country. A copy of the Labour Department Resolution No. M102 (4), dated the 9th January 1946, constituting the committee is available in the Library of the House.

364

Indian Bevin Boys

40. Mr. K. C. Neogy : (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state how many Indians were trained in Great Britain under the Bevin Training Scheme ?

(b) How many of them have been employed in factories engaged in war production ?

(c) How many of the latter have since been discharged ? (d) Is it a fact that a number of Indian technicians trained under the Bevin Training Scheme have been asked by the Government of India to accept places other than those in which they have specialised ? If so, for what reason, and what is the number of such technicians ?

(e) Is it a fact that, though there was no guarantee of service, assurances were freely given during the stay of the Indian Bevin Boys in the United Kingdom that their services would be utilised for the betterment of the industrial status of India? If the answer be substantially as above, what steps have been, or are proposed to be, taken to ensure the proper employment of these trainees ?

(f) Has any representation been received from these trainees indicating their grievances ? If so, to what effect and with what result ?

(g) Is it a fact that one of the objects of the Bevin Training Scheme, with reference to Indian trainees was to give them an appreciation of the Britain

methods of co-operation between the employers and workers, and the value of sound Trade Union principles ? If so, how is it proposed to utilise in India the training of these technicians in Trade Unionism ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) 712. A batch of 75 is at present under training.

(b) 414. Another 168 trainees were engaged on essential work in Defence Services in Government (Central, Provincial and Indian States) undertakings including Railways.

(c) 111 from the factories engaged on war production and 9 from the other undertakings.

(d) Orders for employment of Bevin trainees on their return from United Kingdom were issued by the Government of India under the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance. In most cases Bevin Trainees were placed in employment consistent with the training received by them in the U. K. In a few cases they could not be engaged on work for which they specialised and were entrusted with other work which they could perform by virtue of their general training. Government are making a scrutiny of all such cases and every effort will be made to find suitable employment.

(e) No such assurances were given, so far as the Government of India is aware. The prospectus clearly stated that no guarantee of employment could be given but that every endeavour would be made to place trainees in suitable posts.

(f) Yes. Their main grievance relates to their prospects of employment in suitable posts in the post-war period. Every endeavour is being made to find employment for the unemployed Bevin trainees in Government and private undertakings. Managers of all Employment Exchanges have been instructed to do their best to help Bevin trainees who register for employment. The position regarding unemployment among Bevin trainees will be reviewed periodically and, as far as practicable, suitable action will be taken to remove legitimate grievances.

(g) Yes. Facilities for the study of the working of trade unionism in Great Britain were made available to Bevin trainees. It is hoped that the experience gained will enable Bevin trainees to take their part in the development of trade unionism on sound lines in India.

365

Proposed Evacuation of Villages in the Prosecution of the Damodar Scheme

Mr. President: May I know when the scheme was started and how far it has proceeded ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) : I would like to submit that at this stage there is absolutely nothing to be discussed. Government has no doubt under contemplation putting certain dams on the Damodar River, which flows through Bihar and Bengal, but with regard to the

specific questions raised in this adjournment motion, which speaks of forced evacuation, all I have to say is this—that we are at a very very preliminary stage—we are merely making an inquiry as to how much land would be submerged by the enclosure of this water, what would be the area that would be affected, etc., and we are trying to see how many persons will have to be evacuated, the nature of their holdings and what rights they have. There is really nothing specific, no action has been taken by government at this stage which could be the subject matter of discussion, and what I would like to say is this—that I hope when the government has come to some definite conclusion in this matter I shall be able to circulate a paper to the House containing the conclusions of government and members can then raise the matter for discussion in any way they like.

366

Electricity (Supply) Bill

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a bill to provide for the rationalisation of the production and supply of electricity, and generally for taking measures conducive to the electrical development of India.

Mr. **President** : The question is—

" That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the rationalisation of the production and supply of electricity, and generally for taking measures conducive to the electricity development of India."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

367

Purchase of Temporary Buildings by Government of India

Sri R. Venkataslibba Reddiar: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) If his attention has been drawn to the article under the heading " Stop the Toot " in the last column of the 1st page of the Hindustan Times, dated the 4th February, 1946,

(b) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, whether it is a fact that His Majesty's Government is pressing the Government of India to purchase the two buildings mentioned in the article, if so, whether the Government of India has taken a decision regarding that,

(c) the value of the buildings at present, (d) the cost of the buildings to his Majesty's Government, (e) the price at which these buildings are offered, and (1) if the two buildings have only to be pulled down and are not fit for any use ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes. (b) No. The Government of India themselves have decided to purchase the buildings for housing their officers. The terms of purchase are now under consideration.

(c) No firm figure can be given as the estimates of the present value of the buildings, which depend on several factors, necessarily differ. (d) Rs. 25,58,000. (e) Rs. 21,31,667.

(f) The buildings are being occupied by the staff of the Far Eastern Bureau as well as by the Government of India officers and it cannot be said that they are not fit for any use. They are however temporary buildings and will be demolished when they are no longer required by Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : For how many years are they expected to last ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : I do not know. I suppose it might be estimated between 8 to 10 years.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Is it voluntary purchase or forced ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : Voluntary. Why forced ? If Government need them they have to purchase them.

Mr. Manu Subedar : On what basis is the value fixed ? Is it cost of depreciated value or knock down value ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The value is not fixed. The matter is under negotiation.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : How many years of life from the war? 8 to 10 years have already expired?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They were constructed during the war and I do not know the exact date at the moment.

Sliri Mohan Lal Sansena : Will the demand for the purchase of these buildings come before the House ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Why ? It is an administrative act.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : If they were constructed at the beginning of the war and the life is 8 to 10 years and they are to exist three years more, why does the Honourable Member think it necessary to spend Rs. 25 lakhs ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have said the matter is under consideration. No figure has been fixed.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : I do not quite follow the Honourable Member's last but one answer. He said something about an administrative act which did not require the sanction of this House.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : I did not say that. I said it was an administrative act for which the House need not be consulted. The money will be provided for in the Budget.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I want to know if the money is sanctioned.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It will come up for sanction.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: In what form are you bringing it up ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : That is a matter for the Finance Member.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I want him to answer it. It is no use the Honourable Member taking up that high-handed altitude and saying it is an administrative

act. He has got to answer us.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Answer. (No answer —Interruptions.)

Mr. **President** : Order, order. We will now take up the adjournment motion.

368

Dearth of Accommodation in Delhi and New Delhi

155. Sir Hassan Suhrawardy : (a) Is the Honourable the Labour Member aware that, in spite of the cessation of hostilities, there is still a great dearth of accommodation in Delhi and New Delhi ?

(b) Is he aware that, in spite of the promulgation of the New Delhi Rent Control Order and the Delhi Rent Ordinance, landlords are still harassing tenants and taking advantage of every possible loophole in the law?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of keeping the aforesaid enactments in force until normal conditions prevail at least and until this Assembly enacts some law to regulate the relations between landlords and tenants in the Delhi Province ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes. (b) I have not received any complaints recently. (c) It is the intention of the government of India that rents should continue to be controlled in New Delhi and Delhi until normal conditions returns.

369

British and Non-Indian Public Utility Concerns

172. Mr. K. C. Neogy : Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the number of public utility concerns owned by British and other non-Indian interests in India, indicating the amount of the capital involved in such concerns, and the policy of Government in the matter of acquiring these concerns on behalf of the State or Municipal or other statutory bodies in India ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The question will be answered by the Honourable Member in charge of the Planning and Development on the 18th February, 1946.

370

Operation of Scheme for Training of Technicians Abroad

173. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a comprehensive statement regarding the operation of the scheme for sending technicians already employed in Industries abroad for further training or for enlarging their industrial or professional experience, announced last year, giving particulars specially as regards the number of technicians who have already proceeded to the different countries, the different course they are going to take up, the processes of selection of the said technicians, and the consideration governing such selection ?

(b) How many applicants, if any, are yet to be sent from among those who

have already been selected, how many if any, more technicians are likely to be sent out likewise in the current year, and in what subjects are these technicians likely to be trained and in which countries ?

(c) What will be the estimated cost to the Central Government involved in the training of these technicians, and what will be the cost, if any, to the Provincial Governments concerned ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) 152 candidates have yet to be sent amongst those already selected. Particulars of the training facilities required for each candidate have been sent to the authorities concerned. Arrangements are made for sending the candidates as soon as intimation is received that the training facilities required by him will be available. It is not possible at this stage to say how many more candidates over and above those already selected will be sent in the current year or the subjects in which they may be trained. This will depend on the availability of training facilities abroad.

(c) Under the scheme the training and other expenses of the candidates are borne by the respective employers i.e., private industry, Central and Provincial Governments and the Indian States, as the case may be. The scheme also provides for financial assistance from the Central Government to candidates from private industry where the training is in a new industry or an industry whose development is considered desirable in the national interest and the employer is unable to bear the full cost.

The cost to the Central Government during 1946-47 in respect of candidates selected from amongst Central Government employees and a few cases from private industry where such assistance may be given is estimated to be Rs. 1,01,680.

The estimated cost to the Provincial Governments in respect of candidates selected from amongst Provincial Government employees during 1946-47 will be about Rs. 3,60,000.

371

Accounts Re: Gorakhpur Labour in Coal Mines

31. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to slate whether all the expenditure incurred on account of the recruitment and employment of the Gorakhpur labour in coal mines has been regularly audited and has been found by audit to be entirely in order ? Up to which date have such accounts been audited ?

(b) What is the name and designation of the officer in-charge of the Labour Force and what is the name of his Secretary ? What are the emoluments to which they are respectively entitled, and what is the extent of the Financial authority of the Officer-in-charge.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) First pan. Yes, and the accounts have been reported to be in order.

(b) First part—Mr. H. J. Walsh, Deputy Director, Labour Supply (Coal). There is no Secretary attached to him.

Second part—His scale of pay is 1,925—50—2,075. He has been authorised to incur expenditure at an overall rate not exceeding Rs. 60 per labourer per month, to cover the pay of labourers, pay of clerical, inferior and medical staff, cost of rations, and expenditure on T. A. and contingencies. In all cases expenditure incurred must be in accordance with scales approved by Government.

372

Expenditure on Gorakhpur Labour in Coal Mines

32. Mr. **K. C. Neogy** : Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) the amount so far spent on the Gorakhpur labour employed in coal mines,

(b) the amount realised so far from the owners of mines who employed the Gorakhpur labour,

(c) the number of members of the Gorakhpur labour force employed in (i) Railway-owned collieries and (ii) collieries owned by public companies and individuals, and

(d) the names of those mines where the Gorakhpur labour has been employed.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (a) Rs. 1,91,05,386 upto the end of January 1946.

(b) Rs. 22,52,311 actually recovered upto the end of December 1945. Rs. 29,48,302 are still outstanding for the period upto the end of December and estimated amount to be billed for January 1946 is Rs. 16 lakhs. (c) Number employed in— (i) Railway Collieries 7 per cent,

(ii) Collieries owned by Public companies 83 per cent, and (iii) Collieries owned by individuals 10 per cent. Total labour force as on 19th January 1946—17,391. Greatest number employed in any one month—30,600. (d) A statement is placed on the table. STATEMENT

List of Mines Surface

(1) Madhuband	(21) Pure Tasra	(41) Isabella
(2) Diamone Tisra	(22) New Tasra	(42) Shampur
(3) Model Jharia	(23) Central Bhowra	(43) Pure Laikdih
(4) A. G. Tisra	(24) Bhowra	(44) Sanctoria
(5) Lower Upper Jharia	(25) Mohulboni	(45) Chapui Khas
(6) Indian Jharia	(26) East Ekra	(46) Khas Jamchari
(7) Bagdigi Kujama	(27) Busserya	(47) Jole Dhemo
(8) K. P.'s Dobari	(28) North Ekra	(48) Sirka
(9) Bhalgora	(29) Kankanee	(49) Religarah
(10) Ghanuyadih	(30) Sendra Bansjora	(50) Junkunda
(11) Bagechi's Dobari	(31) Ekra Khas	(51) Jambad
(12) Pandalberra	(32) Ekra Khas No. 12 quarry	(52) Dhansar

(13) Khas Jharia Dobari	(33) Mudidita	(53) Bright Kusunda
(14) South Tisra	(34) Tcclumari	(54) North Bhuggatdih
(15) East Bararee	(35) Tata's Sijua	(55) Godhur
(16) Pure Joyrampur	(36) Angarpathra	(56) Pure Kustorc
(17) North Bararee	(37) Jharia Khas Angarpathra	(57) Alkusa Nayadee
(18) G. P.C's. Jinagora	(38) Koiludih	(58) Jairandih
(19) Basudev ' A ' Plot Colliery	(39) Agardih	(59) Swang
(20) Palhardih Sudamdih	(40) North Damuda	(60) Parhelia

Underground

- (1) Parhelia
- (2) Sodepur
- (3) Sectalpur
- (4) Banksimullah 11 and 12 pits.
- (5) Banksimullah 7 and 8 pits
- (6) Damra
- (7) Adjai II Colliary
- (8) Shechpur
- (9) Chapui Khas
- (10) S. E. Barboni
- (11) Digwadih
- (12) Jitpur
- (13) Pure Joyrampur
- (14) Bhatdce
- (15) Gaslitand
- (16) Standard
- (17) Ekra Khas
- (18) Swang
- (19) Jairandih
- (20) Dhemo Main
- (21) Model Jharia.

373

Extension in Service to C.P.W.D. Officers

44. Shri Sri Prakasa : Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the number of persons, who have retired from, but have been re-employed in the services of the Central Public Works Department as Superintending, Executive and Assistant Engineers, respectively, since 1939;

(b) the number of those persons who have been given extensions to their original terms together with the instalments of each term of extension;

(c) if it is a fact that the Finance Department of the Central Government, has expressed itself against the grant of extensions to the original term ; if so, the reasons for any action in this behalf against the instructions of the Finance Department;

(d) if such extensions interfere with the recruitment of new hands and the advancement of young officers ; if so, whether any provision is made to compensate those whose prospects are blocked; and (e) if Government propose to take any action in the matter of the termination of such extensions and bettering the prospects of younger officers ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Three. (b) Since 1939, extension of service under Fundamental Rule 56 was granted in three cases, the periods of extension being 6 months, 3 days and 1 month respectively.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative ; the second part does not arise. (d) and (e) No.

374

Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the Instrument for the amendment of the constitution of the International Labour Organisation adopted by the Conference at its twenty-seventh session at Paris on the 5th November 1945 together with a statement of the action proposed to be taken thereon.

375

Indian Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce A Bill further to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.

Mr. President: The question is :

" That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Trade Union Act, 1926". The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

376

Stopping of Women Working in Coal Mines

406. Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state: (a) When Government propose to stop women working in Coal Mines now that the war is over; and

(b) Whether they have any schemes ready to provide these women who have been brought away from their villages any alternative employment or to provide them free return passages and to free them also from any debts that they may have incurred while at work in the mines in the hope of repaying them through their savings at the mines ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (a) Government have no intention of entirely prohibiting the employment of women in Coal Mines. Their employment underground has, however, been prohibited from the 1st February, 1946.

(b) The Welfare Fund of the Central Government has decided to open

vegetable farms in the coalfields and the various Mining Associations of employers and the Provincial Governments of Bengal and Bihar were asked to do everything possible to provide at once alternative employment for women released from underground work. Majority of these women have already been provided with surface work in the coal fields.

377

Recommendations of Indian Labour Conference

467. **Prof. N. G. Ranga** : Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations made by the Indian Labour Conference that met in November 1945 ;

(b) the conclusions or decisions reached by government thereon ; and

(c) what steps the Government of India propose to take to implement them?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) None. (b) and (c). Do not arise.

378

Government's House Building Programme for Big Cities

469. Mr. Manu Subedar : (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Labour Member been drawn to the editorial remarks of the Statesman of the 23rd January, 1946, that " Yet it must be remembered that almost no dwelling has been built in any Indian town during the last six years, " and is he in a position to contradict this statement ?

(b) What steps have Government taken to encourage building in congested cities like Bombay and Calcutta ?

(c) Are the controls operating still to prevent structures going up, or are they going out of their way to smoothen out difficulties of builders ?

(d) Have the Government of India received from, or sent to, Provincial Governments any concrete plan in order to bring into existence increased number of buildings in India ?

(e) Are Government aware that the building trade is the most promising one for the absorption of those who may be retrenched from Government service ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (a) Yes. As we have no information regarding the number of buildings constructed during the last six years by private persons, it is impossible either to support or to contradict the statement as it is worded; but I should like to point out that the controls for the use of building materials were not imposed till about the latter half of 1941.

(b) Presumably the Honourable Member has in mind private building. The Government of India have recently taken some steps of a general nature to encourage private building all over India and not only particularly in Bombay and Calcutta.

They have withdrawn the instructions which they issued to Provincial

Governments regarding the exercise of control over building construction. They have advised Provincial Governments generally to encourage private building by all means in their power. They have issued specific instructions about the release of bricks and increased quantities of other building materials like cement, steel, timber, etc. which are under the control of the Government of India, have been made available to private builders.

Government of India have further decided to convene a meeting in Delhi in the first week of March 1946, of representatives of the building trade in order to discuss with them the factors that are still impeding the progress of private building in this country.

(c) The Government of India believe that the relaxations are going to make it easier for builders to put up structures in future.

(d) The Government of India have addressed provinces in regard to a short term scheme for the encouragement of the construction of housing for industrial labour and those other workers in urban areas who are unable to pay an economic rent. The scheme involves a subsidy from the Centre provided provinces make an equivalent subsidy and will be referred to by the finance Member in his Budget speech.

379

Government's Policy re : Residential use of Wartime Temporary Structures

470. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Is the Honourable the Labour Member aware of the special measures being taken in the United Kingdom to increase activity in house building ? If so, what are those measure ?

(b) Do Government propose to indicate their policy with regard to the following suggestion made by the Statesman of the 23rd January, 1946.

" The Government would be, therefore, well advised to consider if until the law of supply and demand has reasserted itself, residential use is possible of the temporary structures put up during the war "?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (a) Yes. These measures have been fully explained in the British Ministry of Information pamphlet No. R. 520, a copy of which will be found in the Library of the House.

(b) The suggestion made by the Statesman of the 23rd January, 1946, was in respect of the temporary buildings constructed in Calcutta and I take it that the Honourable Member wants to know the policy of Government in respect of those buildings. I am concerned only with the buildings constructed for Central Government Civil Offices which will no doubt be retained for use until they have become surplus to our requirements.

380

Working Hours of Factory Workers in India

481. Mr. **Vadilal Lallubhai:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member kindly state:

(a) the actual daily working hours of factory workers in India according to

different industries including collieries and plantations ;

(b) the total number of factories coming under the purview of the Indian factories Act, 1934;

(c) how many of them are working one shift, how many of them two shifts and how many of them three shifts; and

(d) the working hours in each shift ?

The Honourable **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar**: (a) Two statements showing the daily working hours in industries and plantations are placed on the table of the House. No detailed information about the actual working hours in collieries is available.

(b) Total number of factories under the Factories Act was 14,922 in 1944, the last year for which figures are available.

(c) and (d). No information available.

Statement showing hours of work per day in factories

1. Cotton	7 1/2,—10
2. Jute	9—12
3. Silk	7 1/2,—9
4. Woolen	9—10
5. Engineering (including railway workshops)	7 1/2—12 for shift workers (in some cases night shift workers work for 7 hours).
6. Matches	8 1/2,—10
7. Potteries	8 for shift workers
8. Printing Presses	7 1/2—8 1/2,.
9. Glass	7 1/2—9 for shift workers. 10 for general workers.
10. Chemical and Pharmaceutical works	7—10.
11. Sugar	8 for Manufacturing section. 8—9 for Engineering section.
12. Cotton ginning and bailing	9—10.
13. Rice Mills	7—10.
14. Cement	7 1/2—8 for shift workers. 8—9 for general workers.
15. Paper	7—8 in continuous process shifts
16. Mica Factories	9.
17. Shellac Manufacture	8—10.
18. Bidi, Cigar and Cigarettes	11—12 for bidi and cigar. 8—9 for cigarettes
19. Carpet Weaving	9—10.
20. Tanneries and Leather goods Manufacture	U. P. Madras—8 1/2
	9 Day shift. 8—9 Night shift.
21. Coir Malling	9 for men. 6 for women. 5 for children.

Statement showing daily hours of work in Plantations.

Assam and Bengal—

Tea Gardens—	
Hazaria basis (normal working time)	5-6
Ticca basis (overtime)	3-4
Pluckers	10-11
Kangra Valley	8-9
Dehra Dun	8
Almora	6
Tea and Coffee Estates in South India	8-9
Rubber Estates	5-7

381

Utilisation of Temporary Building in New Delhi

495. Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if all the temporary buildings, built for the War Department and other requirements including the returned American buildings on Queensway and other places are going to be utilised solely for office accommodation;

(b) if he will consider the desirability of using at least some of these buildings for housing the government of India personnel, single persons or others, after making slight modifications in those buildings for residential purposes, and thus relieving the present housing shortage in Delhi; and

(c) Whether, if Government is not prepared to undergo the necessary expense, he will let these buildings out on contract with the stipulation that they should be let out to the Government servants in the first instance ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No. (b) Yes—if and when any temporary buildings constructed for office purposes are no longer required as offices—and the sites on which they are constructed are not required for other purposes.

(c) This will be considered, but it is likely that Government will require the buildings for their own staff and in such case be likely to keep them under Government control.

382

Governments Policy re : Mica Trade

499. Babli Ram Narayan Singh : Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the policy and object of Government in regulating the Mica business and trade;

(b) the probable date by which the report of the Mica Enquiry Committee is to be printed and published; and

(c) the length of time to be taken by Government in considering the desirability of altogether removing or at least modifying the ban on the sale of

Crude and Bima Mica under the Mica Control Order ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The Government of India wish to improve the working conditions in the industry and to organise it on sound commercial lines so that Indian mica gets a fair price in the market.

(b) The report is under print and will be published as soon as printed copies are available.

(c) It is not possible to fix any date by which Government will take decisions on the recommendations of the Mica Enquiry Committee. Every endeavour will be made to do it as quickly as possible.

383

Unemployment Due to Mica Control Order

500. Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether Government are aware that several lakhs of people in the Hazaribagh District have been thrown out of employment as a result of the introduction of the Mica Control Order ?

(b) Are Government aware that several lakhs of people of the Hazaribagh District have Mica Business as their only means of livelihood ? If so, do Government propose to regulate the Mica business and the Mica Trade so as to safeguard their interests ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The Government of India have no information that the introduction of the Mica Control Order has resulted the unemployment of several lakhs of people in the Hazaribaah District.

(b) Government are aware that a large number of people are engaged in the Mica business and in any scheme of improvement of the industry Government hope that their interests will not be ignored.

384

Superintending Engineers in Headquarters

599. Mr. Muhammad Rahmat-Ullah : Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that Rai Sahib C. P. Malik is given officiating chances for the post of Superintending Engineers in the Headquarters ?

(b) Is it not a fact that there are a number of Muslim Executive Engineers senior to him but have not been given a single chance to officiate ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (a) No. Rai Sahib C. P. Malik has been appointed temporarily to carry on only the current duties of the post of superintending Engineer, Second Circle, Delhi, purely as a measure of administrative Convenience.

(b) Yes. But they have not yet become due for promotion to the grade of Superintending Engineer.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In view of the fact that out of 13 Superintending Engineers only one is a Muslim, why was not a Muslim appointed for this particular post?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : If the Honourable Member will

refer to my reply, he will see that the appointment is not of an officiating character—he is merely asked to carry on the duties.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad : Without being called a Superintending Engineer and without any remuneration ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This is a third method of avoiding the appointment of Muslims, in addition to the two I suggested yesterday, efficiency and seniority—you do not call a post by the name which is given to it—you simply ask a man to carry on the duties ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My Honourable friend is free to draw any inference he likes.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan : Does the Honourable Member know that there is a feeling abroad that in the matter of appointment of Muslims the Government always meets out step motherly treatment to the Muslims ?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In reply to part (a) the Honourable Member said " as a measure of administrative convenience ". Is it the convenience of the Honourable Member to make it a convenience to avoid appointments of Muslims ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think it is so simple an expression that everybody ought to understand it.

Mr. President : Order, order—next question.

385

Muslim Gazetted Officers in Labour Department Secretariat

600. Mr. Muhammad Rahmat Ullah: Will the Honourable the Labour Member kindly slate the proportion of Muslim Gazetted Officers in the Labour Department Secretariat ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : There are 49 Secretariat Gazetted Officers in the Labour Department, of whom 9 are Muslims.

Mr. Ahmad E. H. Jaffer: Does it not mean that the proportion of Muslims is not maintained, according to the 25 per cent ratio ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : I do not know that that rule applies.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : 9 out of 49—is it fair to the Muslim community that they should have this low percentage ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I understand that is not a matter governed by the communal representation ratio.

386

Muslim Administrative Officers in Central P.W.D.

601. Mr. Muhammad Rahmat-Ullah: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Labour Member been drawn to the article published in the Dawn of the 26th January, 1946, regarding the appointment of a Muslim administrative Officer in the Central P.W.D.?

(b) Are the facts stated therein regarding his Department correct ?

(c) Is it not a fact that the three Assistants of the Administrative Officer as well as the Financial Adviser are all Hindus ?

(d) Is it not a fact that the Honourable Member is contemplating to appoint a non-Muslim Administrative Officer ? If so, why should the Mussalmans be excluded from this branch of the Central P.W.D. ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes. (b) No. (c) Yes.

(d) The question of filling the post of Administrative Officer in the Central Public Works Department is still under consideration.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: How long will it be under consideration, because his attention has been drawn several times ? Will he make the appointment after the Assembly session is over ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : He will be appointed in due course.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad : Why don't you call a spade a spade ? Why do you not call this a Hindu Labour Department, or rather a Scheduled Caste Department ?

(No answer was given)

387

Trade Unions in India

54. Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai : (a) Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state the number of trade unions in India and the total membership thereof since 1939 up to date year by year totally and as between different provinces ?

(b) What are their total funds as between provinces and how much of the same comes by subscriptions and how much by donations since 1939 up to date year by year?

(c) How many of the total members as between provinces did not pay their subscriptions and still continue to be the members from 1939 upto date year by year?

(d) What has been the proportion of outsiders in the office bearers of trade unions ever since 1939 onwards year by year ? Is it a fact that this proportion is recently on a decline ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (a) A statement showing the number of registered trade unions, the number of unions that submitted returns and the membership of the latter, during the years 1939-44, is placed on the Table. Statistics for 1944-45 are not yet available.

(b) A statement showing the income, expenditure, opening and closing balances of trade unions during 1939-44 is placed on the Table. Government has no information on the second part of the question. (c) and (d) The information is not available.

388

Industrial Workers in India

55. **Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state: (a) What is the total number of industrial workers in India and their distribution in individual industries including collieries and plantations since 1939 upto date year by year.

(b) What are the monthly earnings of the factory workers in India in different industries since 1939 up to date, year by year, exclusive of dearness allowance and bonus ?

(c) What are the figures of dearness allowance and bonus paid to industrial workers in India since 1939 up to date, year by year, according to (i) different industries and (ii) different industrial centres ?

(d) Will he please illustrate the effect if any, of war time increase in earnings of industrial workers on the total membership of trade unions and their monetary funds either way ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : (a) A statement is placed on the table. Statistics for 1945 are not yet available.

(b) A statement showing the figures of monthly average earnings of factory workers during 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1943 is placed on the table. These are inclusive of dearness allowances paid in cash, figures exclusive of these not being available. The figures are only approximate as they are compiled from statistics of total payments made and do not allow for factors like number of working days in the year, number of working hours etc.

Figures of 1942 are not furnished as it is not clear which of the figures available are inclusive of dearness allowances and which are not.

(c) Full information is not available and Government do not consider that the time needed for collecting and tabulating this will be commensurate with the result.

(c) Figures of average earnings of factory workers have been furnished in connection with part (a) of this Question. Statements showing the membership and general funds of trade unions are placed on the table. Government are not in a position to say whether the increase in membership and in the income is attributable to increased wages or to other causes.

389

Muslim Administrative Officer in Central Public Works Department

715. **Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer :** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the number of posts of Assistant Administrative Officer in the Central Public Works Department, (b) how many of these posts are occupied by Muslims, and (c) if the reply to (b) is in the negative, what steps he has taken to fill the vacant post of Administrative Officer by a suitable Muslim ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Three. (b) None.

(c) The inference implicit in this question does not necessarily follow from (a) and (b) because the Central Public Works Department cadre is and must

be treated as one. The subject is however, now under consideration.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Since the reply to (b) is none, may I ask the Honourable Member why a Muslim should not be appointed to the post of Administrative Officer?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I did not quite follow.

Mr. **Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Since there are no Muslim Assistant Administrative Officers, may I ask the Honourable Member why should not the post of Administrative Officer be filled by a Muhammadan ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is a matter for consideration. I cannot give a guarantee that the post will be reserved for a particular community.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Have applications been received for this post ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : Applications will not be called for.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Has it been advertised ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Not necessarily.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : Why will not a Muslim be appointed.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : I said that I cannot give an assurance. Besides, the Government of India cannot accept the principle that any community has a vested right in any particular post.

Mr. Ahmad E. H. Jaffer: Particularly in view of the fact that the Honourable Member's Department is the worst in the Government of India.....

Mr. President : Order, order. The Honourable Member will please put the question.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : In view of the fact that the Labour Department is not sufficiently representative of Muslims, may I ask the Honourable Member to consider the appointment of a Muslim to the post?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I deny the assumption of the Honourable Member.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I.....

Mr. President: I believe there is one misunderstanding under which the Honourable Member is putting his questions. Will he resume his seat ? What the Honourable Member of Government said was that he makes a distinction between a particular post and the quota in the departmental posts. Am I right ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President : He said he cannot assure a particular post being filled by a particular community. That is different from the quota.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : My submission is that in view of the fact that his Department has not the required quota of Muslim of 25 per cent., will he consider the question of appointing Muslims up to the minimum quota ?

Mr. President: Yes, that is proper.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not accept the principle that that is the only method.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Does the Honourable Member deny that his Department has in the services the 25 per cent. quota of Muslims ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I deny it.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: With what result ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : I cannot help the result, if there are not sufficient Muslim candidates. That is not my fault.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : May I tell the Honourable Member that this is nothing but a lame excuse on the part of the Honourable Member to say that there are not ' sufficient Muslim candidates ' when they are really available ?

Mr. **President:** Order, order. That will be a criticism. The Honourable Member may put his question.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : May I tell the Honourable Member that sufficient Muslims are forthcoming but their claims are overlooked intentionally.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have nothing to add to what I have said.

390

Communal Representation in Labour Department

718. Mr. **Ahmed E. H. Jaffer :** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the exact number of joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Superintendents, Assistants, Clerks, etc., in the Establishment Branch of the Department of Labour (Main Secretariat) ?

(b) How many Muslims and Non-Muslims are there in each grade ? (c) If the reply to (b) regarding the Muslims is in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b) A statement giving the information is placed on the table.

(c) Does not arise.

	Total	Muslim	Non-Muslim
Joint Secretaries	3	1	2
Deputy Secretaries	4	1	3
Assistant Secretaries and Under Secretaries	13	2	11 (including 1 European, 1 Anglo-Indian and 1 Scheduled caste)
Superintendents	21	6	15 (including 1 Sikh and 1 Indian Christian
Assistants in Establishment Branch	9	2	7
Clerks in Establishment Branch	9	---	9 (Including 1 Scheduled Caste).

Mr. **Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Sir, I did not ask for a statement to be laid on the table of the House, but I want the number to be stated on the floor of the House, as I want to ask supplementary questions.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: May I, Sir, give the figures ?

Mr. E. H. **Jaffer:** There are no figures to give.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : Yes, there are. My learned friend

need not assume a threatening attitude.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : I am only reciprocating the threatening attitude of the Honourable Member himself.

Mr. President : If the list is not too big the Honourable Member may read.

The Honourable **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar**:

	Total	Muslim
Joint Secretaries	3	1
Deputy Secretaries	4	1
Assistant Secretaries and Under Secretaries	13	2
Superintendents	21	6
Assistants in Establishment Branch	9	2
Clerks in Establishment Branch	9	---

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Do these figures include Muslim representation in the Resettlement and Employment Directorate ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I must have notice of that question.

Mr. **Ahmed E. H. Jaffer** : I asked for the figures of the Labour Department of the Main Secretariat. Cannot the Honourable Member say ' Yes ' or ' No ', whether these figures include the figures of Muslim representation in the Resettlement and Employment Directorate or not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I must have notice of that question.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth : Will the Honourable Member kindly tell us what Department in answer to the question in the establishment branch of the Department.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : It is the Main Secretariat. As I said I want notice in order to be accurate in my information.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : Is the Honourable Member aware that the Resettlement and Employment Directorate is quite separate from the Main Secretariat ?

The Honourable **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar**: Of course I am aware.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Why is this large army of Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Assistant and Under Secretaries necessary for the Labour Department and may I know whether my Honourable friend would not satisfy my Muslim friends by reducing some of the other communities in order to restore the Muslim proportion which they want ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : I do not want to express any opinion on the Honourable Member's question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Muslim is the whole Department.

Shri Sri Prakas : May I submit in all humility that the Government may lay on the table before the beginning of every session a full list of all the various communities in the various departments, so that the necessity for most of

these questions may be obviated and temper kept under control ?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : In view of the Government Resolution of the Home Department of 1934 fixing a 25 per cent. Quota for the Muslims and in view of the fact that there is shortage of Muslim representation in accordance with this resolution in the Labour Department, will the Honourable Member rectify and make up the quota by employing more Muslims ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : The posts to which I have made reference in the course of my reply are not posts which are governed by communal representation. They are promotion posts.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : May I take it that the resolution does not apply to his Department ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : The Honourable Member ought to read the Government Resolution more carefully than he seems to have done.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: The other day in reply to Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmed the Honourable the Home Member said that Government Resolution does apply to the Labour Department will he transfer the resolution to the Honourable Labour Member ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I know the resolution very well.

Mr. President: Next question.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : One more question. Sir, Is the Deputy Secretary's post a Class I post.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: There is no such thing as a Class I post there.

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